

September 24, 2003

CW/ MORSE CODE  
ELEMENT 1 EXAM  
AMATEUR RULE CHANGE  
COMMENT  
RM-10787

To: Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Sirs: The current suggestions on eliminating the current Amateur Morse code

exam (Element 1) has Positive and Negative points. I disagree with the points

made that Morse code Telegraphy is all of a sudden an OUTDATED mode

of communication for amateur as well as commercial,military needs. The original

purpose of having an exam to prove the ability to send and receive morse code was

for any amateur radio station to be able to understand an emergency transmission

in the event of war,or national emergency to stop transmitting on the freq. in use if

it was needed for official use.

It is true that more sophisticated modes of communication are available for amateur

use on the HF Freq. spectrum and a proficiency of those modes of transmitting should be required to show they are able to be performed properly. However, Is that not what the current WRITTEN EXAMS Elements 2,3,and 4 are supposed to do?? As some have stated the current written exams are multiple choice and require only the MEMORIZATION of the correct ANSWERS to pass those test. How does an amateur radio operator LEARN Morse Code?? It would seem to me that if no TESTING to show minimal knowledge of current radio communication operation ie... Station Equipment,RF safety,RF power,etc... is to go unchecked before a new Amateur Radio operator becomes licensed, how can there be any proper communications on the Freq. spectrum allocated to Amateur operations??

If the elimination of Morse Code testing is to be done, then why keep any testing audio, written or other?? The reasons are obvious!! If there were no testing the Amateur Freq. spectrum would be nothing more than the 11 meter No License (Citizen Band) 27Mhz where hardly no control of communications exist. The reduction to 5 WPM code to show correct ability for that area of Amateur operation is needed just as taking the Written Elements to show MINIMUM understanding and skill to operate ALL MODES of radio communication.

On the other hand, to eliminate this AREA of testing would allow more CURRENT Amateur operators to access the HF bands and produce more activity but, at the cost

of possible overcrowding of certain bands at times where less contacts could be made.

As long as Morse code is still used and the Freq. spectrum allowed to operate this mode

only Amateur operators with code proficiency should be allowed to use it.